



# HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sheriff Paul Blackman**

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### **25 of 26 stores pass alcohol compliance checks**

SEBRING -- With the coming of Spring Break and the 12 Hours of Sebring in mind, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office Tactical Anti-Crime (TAC) team conducted a sweep of alcohol compliance checks Friday, March 10.

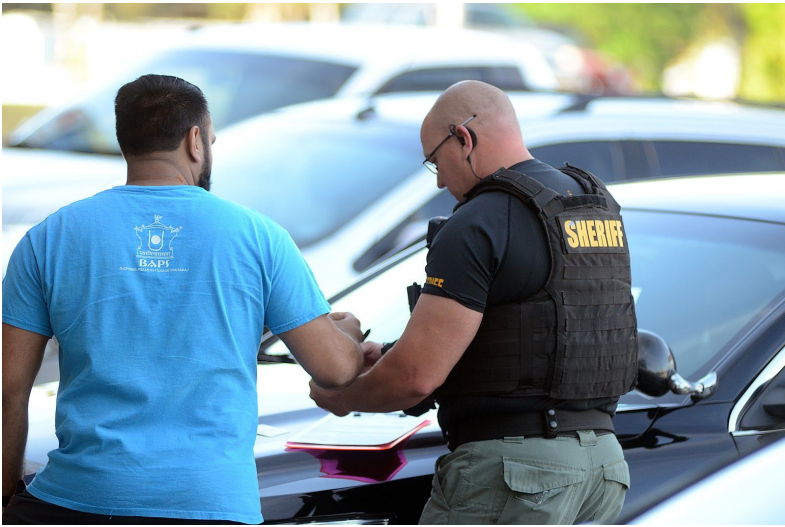
The results were excellent. Out of 26 stores checked countywide, only one clerk sold alcohol to the undercover witness, an 18-year-old female.

Almost every employee asked for ID right away. One trainee nearly went through with a sale, but was reminded that she had forgotten something by the person who was training her, saving the new employee a costly mistake. One employee at another location even yelled at the would-be buyer, telling her she knew she was supposed to be 21 and to not come back.

There is no trickery involved in the operation. The witness has to tell her true age if asked and has to produce ID when it is requested. The employee that sold her the alcohol never asked for ID. He was issued a notice to appear.



"This is one of those cases where we are always hoping for a 100 percent passing rate," Sheriff Paul Blackman said. "That means the retailers in our county are doing a good job of training their employees to not sell alcoholic beverages to someone who is underage."



Tilak Patel (left) is fingerprinted by Deputy Max van D'huynslager Friday, March 10, after being charged with selling alcohol to a minor, pictured above selecting an alcoholic beverage from a cooler during the operation.

Here is a list of the stores checked Friday:

Name of Business	Address	City	Pass/Fail	Arrest
Sunoco	999 US 27 South	Avon Park	Pass	
Marathon	3 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	
7 Days	107 US 27 South	Avon Park	Pass	
Chevron	590 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	
El Paso	209 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	
Shell	998 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	
Citgo	1310 Allamanda Dr	Avon Park	Pass	
Valero	4 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	

Murphy's	993 US 27 North	Avon Park	Pass	
Sunoco	999 US 27 South	Avon Park	Pass	
Citgo	901 US 27 South	Avon Park	Pass	
Shell Food Mart	6229 US 27 North	Sebring	Pass	
Marathon	3901 US 27 North	Sebring	Pass	
Circle K	2101 Hammock Rd	Sebring	Pass	
Shell Food Mart	629 N Ridgewood Dr	Sebring	Pass	
Mobile Mart	3303 Kenilworth Blvd	Sebring	Pass	
L&M	1411 Kenilworth Blvd	Sebring	Pass	
Marathon	3641 US 27 South	Sebring	Pass	
Raceway	5100 US 27 South	Sebring	Pass	
Circle K	7916 US 27 South	Sebring	Pass	
Little Froggies	4212 Kenilworth Blvd	Sebring	Pass	
Jay-Vee	11911 US 27 South	Sebring	Fail	Tilak Patel
Gate Station	134 US 27 North	Lake Placid	Pass	

USA Grocery	244 CR 621	Lake Placid	Pass	
Raceway	781 US 27	Lake Placid	Pass	
Quick Mart	1070 US 27 North	Lake Placid	Pass	

*.Note: Not all arrests lead to a conviction. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in court.*